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PLAN IMPROVEMENT OF STATE TRANSPORTATION

DEVELOP RAILROAD SERVICE -- Hospodar, No 10, 9 Mar 50

The organizational transformation of transportation enterprises into state enterprises, ordered by Law No 311/48, has been substantially completed except for the CSD (Czechoslovak State Railroads), where additional developmental changes will be necessary. These will be: (1) a considerable decentralization into functionally narrower organizations such as the territorial managements, and (2) a greater centralization of the series of establishments and programs which need not be organized territorially, such as central purchasing and research. Wider separation of passenger transportation from freight transportation may be expected in the CSAD (Czechoslovak Automobile Transport or Czechoslovak Bus Transport), as soon as that enterprise passes through the present initial stage of development and assumes further tasks.

Under the Gottwald program the following has been accomplished:

1. Improvement of connections with the East, particularly the Soviet Union, and simultaneous construction of efficient reloading points.
2. Preparation for electrification of about 1,000 kilometers of important railroad lines.
3. Extension of the Oder waterway to Ostrava.

Positive decisions have been made concerning electrification, and the entire program has been divided into three Five-Year Plans. The present Five-Year Plan calls for electrification of two sections of the main railroad line; the next Five-Year Plan calls for completion of electrification of that line and a number of branch lines, particularly in the mountainous areas of Slovakia; and finally, the railroad network around Prague extending up to 60 or even 100 kilometers, and the Bratislava-Zilina line will be electrified.

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The railroad network will remain substantially unchanged. Only the old project of connecting Pilsen with Brno will be realized. In the distant future that line will be connected with the line leading from Brno to Slovakia through Gottwaldov. The Slovak network will undergo substantial changes by completing the railroad lines which have been begun.

The plan calls for absolute cooperation among transportation agencies. Law No 311 secures such cooperation by establishing the so-called management council, that is, a group of all central managers of state transportation enterprises.

INTRODUCE NEW AUTOBUS -- Universul, No 104, 7 May 50

The "Georgi Dimitrov" Plant in Czechoslovakia has just completed a new all-steel autobus for passenger service on Czechoslovak highways. The autobus is powered by a 145-horsepower Skoda Diesel-706 motor, which is so powerful that it can climb easily even the steepest grades. The new autobus is 11 meters long, with front entrance and electropneumatic doors. During successful test runs, it reached a speed of 77 kilometers per hour.

New models of the Tatra-500 autobus for use in mountainous regions will soon be built.

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